

2nd February 2011

Dear Parent/Caregiver



Timea Willemse (Team Leader, Numeracy Leader, DC Teacher)

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KD McArthur

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Welcome to the beginning of another great year at Sherwood School. We hope you have had a superb family time and made the most of these summer days. We anticipate a fantastic year of teaching and learning with your children and look forward to meeting you during this term. Our year group is made up of Nikau M (room 8), Nikau W (room 9) and Nikau C (room 10). We are located alongside the back field and junior playground.

We can be contacted by email and will aim to respond in a timely manner. If you wish to speak with us, please request a meeting by email. That way you can have our undivided attention. Before and after school is really busy in the classrooms, setting up for, and packing down from, the day.

Newsletters are emailed out to parents on Thursdays and hardcopies are available for collection from the office.

Our PYP Inquiry themes for Term 1 are 'Who We Are' & 'Sharing The Planet'. Our first Lines of Inquiry will look at understanding how we fit into a learning community (incl. rights & responsibilities), how we learn best and how others may learn differently to us. We will explore De Bono's Thinking Hats, Multiple Intelligences (SMARTS) and the IBO Learner Profiles. I encourage you to take some time looking at these concepts yourselves through the Internet and chat with your children about their learning.

Part of good brain function is a healthy diet. Please encourage your child to have a bottle of **water** (non-flavoured) every day, named and washed daily. **Brain snacks** are also encouraged and can be 'grazed' on throughout the day. A list of suitable snacks is at the end of this letter.

We will have **EOTC week** (education outside the classroom) this term in Week 4, which will include a day with MERC (marine education & recreation centre) at Long Bay, a walk to Campbell's Bay and a sleepover at school in the PAC. Exciting stuff!! We urge you to settle T1 activity fees at the school office prior to the EOTC week so that the venue and buses can be paid for.

Maths will start off with Statistics this term. We will also look at Number Knowledge, Addition & Subtraction strategies and some measurement towards the end of term.

For **Language**, we will explore poetry, writing factual explanations and persuasive letters.

Music & PE are on Mondays. Team fitness will run from 8:50-9:00am, Tuesdays-Thursdays. Ensure that children wear supportive footwear for these activities and their school PE uniforms on Mondays. **Library** (also Mondays) will be starting once we move back into our block so please use your local library in the meantime

Spanish will be on Monday afternoons.

Homework is both sent home and uploaded on the class Wiki webpages. It is due back each Monday. Homework is one way for families to keep a handle on their children's progress and a great way for children to learn independence, responsibility and self-management as well as getting one-to-one support when needed. As with other aspects of learning, children are at different stages with these skills, too. We aim to be as open-ended with tasks as possible, to include a range of ability levels and children are encouraged to do their personal best.

Reading both Lexile & Non-Lexile books from our school Library will become a regular feature of home reading in Y4. Please support your children with completing the on-line Lexile quiz following the reading of the book or completing the reading log sheet in their homework book for non-lexile books. Watching the movie version defeats the purpose of the programme, which is designed to support their reading comprehension skills and mileage. Children may refer to the book to locate the answers for their quiz. When no quiz is available for a Lexile book, they may write a book review on it in their homework books or emailed through to their teacher, to count toward their progress score. Refer to the homework expectations for more reading information.

Thank you for providing the **stationery** required by your child. All items must be named as children's days are busy and items can be misplaced. We encourage each child to have a **small**, rigid pencil case. This is their 'Toolkit' and contains the writing essentials without crowding their work-table. A larger 'Publishing' pencil case can hold their felts, colouring-in pencils, etc. in their tote trays. Some stationery will be collected in and kept as a class set for Art & Maths.

This is the summer Term so **school hats** and sunscreen are a must.

Pop in to say "Hi" sometime over the next 2 weeks and let us know if you are able to parent help in our classrooms.

AY4 parent information evening will be offered on **10th Feb at 6:25pm**, during our school picnic, which starts at 5pm. Please come along for an informative & informal chat with the Y4 team. The school Twilight Fair will also be held in T1, on **8th April**.

School hours are from 8:50am – 3pm. Students may go into class from 8:30 or attend BASC prior to that time, as well as after school.

We look forward to your support and working with you and your child during the year.

Kind regards,

The Fabulous Year Four Team

Brain Snacks are sugar, salt, colouring and preservative free. They can include:

Natural popcorn, Fresh fruit & veg (eg, Carrot sticks, celery, apple, berries)

Dried fruit & veg (eg. Raisins, apricots), Nuts & seeds (eg. Unsalted almonds, pumpkin or sunflower seeds), Water (unflavoured).